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## 5. RECORD OF THE AMUR FALCON *FALCO AMURENSIS* RADDE ON SRIHARIKOTA ISLAND, NELLORE DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH

We sighted the Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* on two occasions on Sriharikota island, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh. The first sighting was of an adult male in an open scrub habitat at 1630 hrs on November 23, 2002. We saw probably the same bird in the same place, the next morning. It was perched on an electric wire and allowed close approach (c. 25 m). The second sighting was of a flock of 5 falcons in the morning, on May 23, 2003. The birds were actively hunting dragonflies along casuarina plantations on the seashore adjoining the Bay of Bengal.

Ali and Ripley (1987) mention that the Amur Falcon is a rare migratory falcon, which breeds casually in north Cachar (Assam); its main breeding grounds are in China (Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). In Peninsular India, they are autumn and spring passage migrants (observed or collected between

September and April), migrating along a NE to SW route to East Africa (Ali and Ripley 1987; Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001). Records of the Amur Falcon in Andhra Pradesh are very rare, being known from only two old records, one from Nellore and the other from Rajamundry (Ali and Ripley 1987; Grimmett *et al.* 1998; Kazmierczak 2000). Thus, our sighting of the species, twice in Sriharikota, which is outside the normal migratory route of the species in India and with a gap of 5 months between sightings, is interesting.

August 25, 2003

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## 6. SIGHTING OF ORANGE-GORGETED FLYCATCHER *FICEDULA STROPHIATA* (HODGSON) AT BANDHAVGARH (M.P.): A FIRST RECORD FOR PENINSULAR INDIA

In the first week of January 2002, while on a trip to Bandhavgarh National Park (Madhya Pradesh), a rather strange looking flycatcher drew my attention as it flitted about in the garden of Tiger Trails Resort. The Resort is located in Bijaria village, which is a few kilometres from the National Park boundary. At first, I mistook this flycatcher for the Red-throated Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*).

A closer look revealed that this flycatcher did have much more than the plain red throat, though it did exhibit the white outer tail feathers similar to the outer tail feathers of the Red-throated Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*).

The most interesting and striking feature this bird exhibited was the white band across the forehead, which

extended up to the eyes, a black chin and an orange 'gorget', which could be clearly seen through the binoculars. The bird was not shy and one could watch it from a distance of less than four metres. I had never seen a flycatcher of this description earlier, which forced me to refer to the available literature to ascertain its identification. Referring to the BIRDS OF INDIAN SUBCONTINENT (Grimmett *et al.* 1998), led me to the conclusion that this new flycatcher in the area was a male Orange-gorgeted Flycatcher (*Ficedula strophciata*).

Mahinder Singh, a colleague, who was stationed at the Resort as a naturalist, later informed me that he had first noticed this bird around mid December 2001; and after that, the bird was seen everyday. The bird was seen around the